

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed March 23, 2009. Claims 1-15 remain in this application. Claims 1, 14 and 15 have been amended. In view of the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103)

In the Office Action, Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0120920 (“Svensson”) in view of European Patent EP 0756397 A2 (“Varadharajan”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The cited portions of Svensson and Varadharajan, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1. For example, the cited portions of Svensson fail to disclose or suggest *a first portable unit (1) comprising: a memory (3) for storing a worldwide unambiguous key record (4), a first transmitter (6) provided for short-range information transmission of the key record (4) to at least one apparatus (2) of the network during a configuration stage to be stored in said at least one apparatus*, as recited in claim 1. In contrast to claim 1, the cited portions of Svensson describe a provisioned device 12 and a non-provisioned device 18, both of which include interfaces for the creation of Wireless Personal Networks (WPN). Svensson further describes a remote authentication method that solves the problem of authenticating non-provisioned devices that can communicate with a provisioned device 12. The method includes the steps of receiving an authentication challenge from a WLAN 20 at the non-provisioned device 18. The non-provisioned device transmits the challenge to the provisioned device 12. The provisioned device 12 calculates an authentication response based on the user’s key and transmits the authentication response to the non-provisioned device. The non-provisioned device 18 then transmits the authentication response to the WLAN 20, which compares the received authentication response to an expected authentication response to complete the authentication procedure. In this manner, the provisioned device 12 may authenticate any number of non-

provisioned devices 18, all using the single key in the user's provisioned device 12. See Svensson, pars. 24 and 25.

In sharp contrast to Svensson, a security system of the invention, as claimed in claim 1 comprises *a first portable unit (1) comprising: a memory (3) for storing a worldwide unambiguous key record (4), a first transmitter (6) provided for short-range information transmission of the key record (4) to at least one apparatus (2) of the network during a configuration stage to be stored in said at least one apparatus*. Unlike Svensson, the first portable unit is not a device with processing capabilities for the purpose of authenticating any number of non-provisioned devices. Rather, the first portable unit is a storage item, akin to an RFID tag, which stores the worldwide unambiguous key record and transmits this key record, via short range means, to at least one apparatus of a network during a configuration stage. In this manner, the first portable unit is only needed during configuration such that during an authentication stage, the at least one apparatus stores the unambiguous key record and is capable of communicating with other apparatuses in the network. It is further noted that the portable unit does not have to be present during authentication, unlike Svensson whereby both the provisioned device 12 and the non-provisioned device 18 must be simultaneously present. It is further noted that, unlike the present invention in which the key is configured into the at least one apparatus, the key is never configured into the non-provisioned device 18 in Svensson.

The cited portions of the secondary cited reference, Varadharajan do not rectify the deficiencies in Svensson. The cited portions of Varadharajan do not teach or suggest *a first portable unit (1) comprising: a memory (3) for storing a worldwide unambiguous key record (4), a first transmitter (6) provided for short-range information transmission of the key record (4) to at least one apparatus (2) of the network during a configuration stage to be stored in said at least one apparatus*. Instead, the cited portions of Varadharajan describe two devices (i.e., host and portable device) intending to "remotely" communicate with each other over an insecure communications network. To encrypt the communication, the devices exchange key material over a second secure channel (i.e., an IR channel) referred to as "direct communication means". Thus the cited portions of Varadharajn do not disclose or suggest *a first portable unit (1) comprising: a memory (3) for storing a worldwide unambiguous key*

record (4), a first transmitter (6) provided for short-range information transmission of the key record (4) to at least one apparatus (2) of the network during a configuration stage to be stored in said at least one apparatus.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the Office to withdraw the rejection pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of independent claim 1. Applicants further respectfully request the Office withdraw the rejection of dependent claims 2-13.

Independent Claims 14 and 15 recite similar subject matter as Independent Claim 1 and therefore contains the limitations of Claim 1. Hence, for at least the same reasons given for Claim 1, Claims 14 and 15 are believed to recite statutory subject matter under 35 USC 103(a).

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1-15 are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Mike Belk, Esq., Intellectual Property Counsel, Philips Electronics North America, at 914-945-6000.

Respectfully submitted,



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Atty. Docket No. DE030047 [MS-318]

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